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majority of which have a diameter between [1.5] 2.5 and 4.5 micrometers and a length of 2 to 15 centimeters, wherein the mat has a density not greater than 40 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Please cancel claim 4.

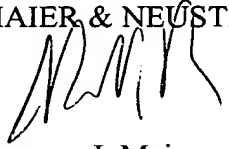
REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application, as now amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment modifies the specification and claims to be consistent with amendments made in the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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